1	3
15. Tirupathi (Chittoor)	5874
16. Ongole (Prakasam)	2457
17. Vijayawada	16542
18. Warangal	3517
19. Nalgonda	3517
20. Adilabad	1679
21. Vishakapatnam	14380
22. Vizianagaram	1079
23. Hyderabad (Urban)	93109
Total	198514

Streamlining the Telecommunication Network in Rural areas

416. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone exchanges, PCOs and private telephones are generally defunct and dead in large areas of rural India, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to streamline the telecommunication network in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Telephone exchanges PCOs etc. in rural India are generally not defunct, but there are some specific maintenence problems in many areas of rural India. The Government is aware of it and suitable steps are taken to short-out these problems.

(b) Steps taken to streamline the telecommunication network are given as below:

1. Replacement of manual and electromechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

2. Installing new electronic exchanges on large scale.

3. Providing adequate capacity power plant and stand by power supply. Use of nonconventional power energy like solar energy etc. wherever feasible in cases where normal electric supply is not satisfactory.

4. Providing stable media for the circuits linking the rural exchange to the parent exchange.

5. Providing sufficient circuits to provide STD and group dialling facilities.

6. Provision of upgraded out-door plant for sub-lines and providing long distance public telephones and long distance connections on radio systems like MARR.

Expansion Plans to provide Telephones on Demand

417. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering an expansion plan as a result

of which telephone connections would be available on demand;

(b) if so, by what time this scheme would come to effect; and

(c) the present backlog of applications for telephone connections yet to be cleared in various categories with State-wise break up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per 8th Plan Objective the waiting period for telephone connections is to be reduced to two years in large Telephone systems, and telephone practically on demand in rural and tribal areas by the end of 8th Plan (1992-97).

(c) The present backlog of applications of telephone connections category-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement.

Statement

Backlog of applications for Telephone category-wise as on 1-10-93

S.No.	State	OYT	Non-OYT	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	9135	190331	199466
2	Assam	274	12677	12951
3	Bihar	471	48341	48812
4	Gujarat (including Diu, Daman Dadar, & Nagar Haveli)	17350	224037	241387
5	Haryana	2878	73738	76616
6	*Himachal Pradesh*	*155*	*17049*	*17204*
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1288	22384	23672
8	Karnataka	6027	193195	199522
9	Kerala (includes Lakshadweep (U.T.))	25153	300760	325913
10	Madhya Pradesh	1965	93683	95648
11	Maharashtra (includes Goa State)	44351	462011	506362
12	North East (includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura)	256	7567	7823
13	Orissa	11	11059	11070
14	Punjab (includes Chandigarh U.T.)	13452	191126	204578
15	Rajasthan	7689	186239	193928
16	Tamil Nadu (includes Pondicherry U.T.)	23871	317343	341214
17	Uttar Pradesh	3305	154430	157735
18	West Bengal (Includes Sikkim & Andaman Nicobar Island)	3006	88034	91040
19	Delhi	20003	335257	355260